NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Season's Greetings

NIAGARA NEWS

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Bright lights

Christmas trees, in all their lighted splendor, are a big part of the traditions of this season. These two giants stand in front of a beautiful display at St. Catharines City Hall which has become a holiday landmark in the region.

Photo by Virgil Klassen

College to get nurse if funds available

Niagara College is a step closer to having a full time nurse again.

The Board of Governors approved in principle the reinstatement of a nurse at its meeting Nov. 30. The motion was included in an administrative affairs committee report presented to the board.

The committee moved that "the reinstatement of a health service for students staffed by one full-time nurse be approved in principle effective April 1, 1990, and that the costs for this service be brought forward as part of the budget for 1990-91."

There is "one more hurdle to go" before the college could once again have a nurse on campus, Board chairman Bill Heelis said. The money needed for a nurse will have to come out of the college's annual budget of 1990-91, and this will depend on the funding available when this budget is prepared.

The motion for this student health service was tabled following discussion of a report on health services for students presented to the committee. The report included a list of major health service functions carried out by the college nurse in the past.

After having a nurse at the Welland campus for almost 17 years, the Board of Governors did away with the position in the fall of 1988 to reduce the college deficit. A doctor's clinic operated two days a week on campus last year, but health service at the college has been reduced to a first aid volunteer basis since this fall.

During the committee's discussion, Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration, also indicated that the search for a college physician is continuing.

New timetable despite 'No' vote

Even though Niagara students voted "no" to timetable changes in a college-wide survey, the college has decided to switch to a new schedule for next fall.

"Starting September of 1990, we will start at 8:30 and go every hour on the half hour with a 10-minute break," Dr. Tony Knowles, vice-president of academics, said.

"We will try it for a year and see how it works," Dr. Knowles said.

The decision was made by the President's Operating Committee.

After reviewing the question of timetable changes last spring, the College Council recommended 10-minute breaks between classes with two options, starting at 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. The questionnaire distributed to students before the strike offered these two choices, plus the present schedule.

77 PER CENT

Seventy-seven per cent of the 60 per cent of students who took part preferred the present schedule.

Commenting on the result, Dr. Knowles said he felt many students had not realized that few would be affected by a school day which did not end until 5:30 p.m.

"Although the last period would end later, very few students — even now — use this period." Only 14 of 46 post-secondary programs at Niagara use period 9, the last period.

Dr. Knowles believes the move will improve the quality of education at the college. "It is important that there be enough time for students to talk to teachers between classes to get a bit of help. There are very compelling reasons for having a 10-minute break." No longer will students have to hustle off to their next class, he said.

Dr. Knowles said the new schedule will also ease problems for administration as well. "It's awfully hard to schedule a class in one corner of the Merritt Building and then ask them to go over to Black Walnut where there may be a suitable classroom free." In this case, classroom space is not always utilized.

The poll had requested students to mark their preference for three possible timetables. Two new schedules would have had a 10-minute break between classes; one with an early start and the other with a late finish. The last choice was to keep the existing schedule. Sixty per cent of the student body responded.

Computer virus infectious

By SHEILA MCBRAYNE
Staff Writer

They're not human, but they can catch viruses or worms; they have trojans and bombs. In fact they're superior to humans because they have immunity systems. What is becoming more human than humans? Computers.

Society has come to rely on computers. Computers are directly or indirectly related to all businesses and offices in society. In the public library, the local hardware store, the grocery store,the train station, the doctors office and in all the schools, computers are operating or complementing operations for faster, more efficient services. But what happens when computers get sick?

There is a universal problem when computers become vulnerable to electronic infections. Computer viruses are spreading not only in North America but have also been traced to origins in West Germany, Jerusalem and Pakistan.

An article in Popular Science describes a computer virus as being like a biological virus because it attaches itself to a host. A biological virus takes over a living cell. Similarly, a computer virus has a set of coded instructions that allow it to invade and take over a host (program). Here it will copy itself onto an existing program, causing it to blank the screen, erase the data or program, or reformat the disk and infect the new hosts. It's contagious.

A virus can spread without being detected for a long time. A dormant virus has a programmed trigger that sets itself off. Various unsystematic trigers have been programmed into viruses. One virus is set off every Friday the 13th. Others are harder to catch because they may be triggered to go every time a fourth replica is produced, the article explained.

A worm is a program that copies itself, but is self contained. It is parasitic, like all viruses, and can self destruct, erasing all its data.

Trojans, named after the Trojan horse of Greek mythology, look harmless but contain vandalized software from outside the computer system. The trojan is released when the infected hard disk is used.

Bombs are much like trojans except they can be set off at a specific time. They are contained within a program and are originals; they are not brought in from outside the computer system itself.

Once a virus enters a computer, it attacks the operating system, which contains the permanent instructions loaded before any other software. The virus deletes instructions and adds new coding that has been tampered with.

These viruse are spread when a hard disk is used in an infected computer and then in another computer system. More sophisticated viruses are transmitted through network computer systems and modems. The six most common, named viruses are Lehigh, Scores, Nvir, Israeli, Alameda and Pakistani Brain, according to the Computer Virus Industry Association.

A virus infected the computers at Seneca College in Toronto. The virus appeared on the screen as small balls that bounced all over the screen and erased characters. The virus was contained to only a few classroom computers and was stopped by entering an uninfected disk into the disk operating system."We thought at first we just had some scrambled start-up files from computer games that night school students had brought in," said the Seneca software applications instructor.

These viruses can strike even the smallest computer systems including the family's home computer. All computers are susceptible to viruses, so owners must be on guard to ward off these electronic infections.

Contest seeks best poems

About $11, 000 worth of prizes will be awarded to 152 poets who win the American Poetry Association contest.

In a press release to Niagara College, the association said everyone, including students, is welcome to enter; there is no fee.

Entrants may send up to six poems, each no more than 20 lines. The work must bear a name and address on each page and be sent to the American Poetry Association, Dept. CT-90, 250-A Potrero St., PO Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Deadline is Dec. 31.

The grand prize is $1.000. and $500 is the first prize. Each poem will be considered for publication in the American Poetry Anthology. "Every student who writes poetry should enter this contest; our latest $1,000 winner is a student. Students also won 24 of the other prizes," Robert Nelson, associate publisher said. " December break should give students the chance to enter before the deadline."

For the past eight years, the association has run 34 contests and awarded $165,000 in prizes to 3,100 winning poets.

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There's no place like home

By JOHN BLACKWELL
Staff Writer

Mondays are difficult at the best of times. Mornings are no great thing either. So imagine the joy Monday morning last week when the first person's opinion was sought for a questionnaire sent down from above by the Anointed Administrators.

Question no. 1: While studying at Niagara College, are you living away from home?

Whoa... That's a little existential for first thing Monday isn't it? Home. Let's see. To answer that question, he must decide where home actually is.

Hmmm. Where the heart is you might say; after all, someone else once said it before. But is this accurate enough for such a vital survey? The first person's heart, after all, has been on a sandy Jamaican beach, the ski slopes of Vail, and spent " quality time" with lovely women he's met.

Since he's never actually physically been to any of these places, and even his heart visits these oases only during brief mental interludes, he was a little reluctant to call them " home".

But where is home, and is he or isn't he living away from it?

A CASTLE

A man's home is his castle, it is also said. But this answer, too, leaves him high and dry. For you see, he is among the countless people who are castleless. Still no luck.

This morning proves a little more difficult than most.

Ahhh. But where is home?

The driver's licence lists an address, but is that really anough? Still, the post office is sharp enough to deliver his bills there, and his creditors are naive enough to expect payment to arrive from this particular abode.

The first person had better luck deciphering Hegel than he does grappling with this poser. Mind you, Hegel never hit him first thing Monday morning either. Anointed Administrators, you could be more kind.

NEED MORE

A mere address is clearly insufficient — there must be more to a home.

Home was once a happy hovel with Mom, Dad and little brother, the Beaver but, alas, those days are foggy, distant memories. Almost as foggy as his parents' memories of the party they threw the night their nest finally emptied.

That was home, but is no more. Can you live away from something that doesn't exist? Please pass the Tylenol.

Why do they always ask the toughest questions after the deadline for dropping courses?

Anointed Administrators, the first person apologizes. He has failed you miserably.

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Many invited to Explore Niagara

More than 1,300 secondary school students will be bustling through the corridors of the Welland campus for the Explore Niagara day next Wednesday.

Thirty buses will carry more than 1,300 students, parents, teachers and counsellors to this year's event, a release from Patty Faragalli, recruitment and liaison officer, marketing and information services, said this week.

The college has sent invitations to all the 49 secondary schools in the Niagara peninsula as well as 150 others in the surrounding areas. Mrs. Faragalli said transportation expenses for all secondary schools from the peninsula that would be coming for the event would be shouldered by the college.

The Explore Niagara day was to have been held on Oct. 25, but had to be postponed to Dec. 13 because of the college teachers' strike.

OTHER DISPLAYS

Campuses in other parts of the region will have their displays set up at the Welland Campus.

College classes will continue as usual. The release said the day would give visiting students the opportunity to sit in on classes and view the specialized facilities include robotics in the MacKenzie building, programming in the Radio and Television studios, a nursing display and a video in the Early Childhood Education Centre. Live performances by Common Language band in the Gymnasium from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. will add to the excitement of the day.

Secondary school students will be at the college from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Unlike the spring Open House Explore Niagara is primarily for secondary school students.

"There's no problem with having mature students come as well; it is just that the invitation has gone out to the secondary schools," Fred Habermehl, executive dean of the college, said. "I believe that secondary school students who're looking at college or university should look at a variety of institutions while they have the opportunity so they can make an informed choice, and Niagara College is one of those choices."

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College residence

Developers interested in proposals

By BRUCE CULP
Staff Writer

Niagara College is considering a student residence for its Welland Campus after being approached by developers with favorable proposals.

The proposed residence would be a co-operation between developer and college. "If a developer were to put something up on college property, our contribution would certainly be the land," Bette Ferguson, director of student services, said. A developer who agreed to cover all other costs could lease the land from the college. The residence would be privately owned and operated by the developer; it could be either on or off campus.

Mrs. Ferguson said the new residence could be started within the next couple of years if the proposal went any further than a pipedream. All negotiations would be handled first by the property committee, then passed on to the Board of Governors. A possible location could be next to the Black Walnut Building, adjacent to the proposed Student Centre.

Although plans are still in the early stages, Mrs. Ferguson said the college wants to get a variety of information from other developers and students before the proposal goes any further.

HOW MANY?

A survey was sent through the college last week to record the number of students living away from home. "We want to get a handle on how many people would be interested in living in a residence," Mrs. Ferguson said. She said a developer requested the survey as a means of finding how much Niagara students pay to live in Welland.

One private developer, Col-Res, has already built an off-campus residence for Sir Sandford Fleming College this fall. "As far as I know, it is going reasonably well," Mrs. Ferguson said. "We are going to invite other people to tend their proposals too."

Mrs. Ferguson said the private developer route could be an alternative for the college during a period of deficit trouble. It is just too costly for the college to build a residence alone at this time, she said. The college does not necessarily want to deal with administration hassles.

Mrs. Ferguson would like to see the idea come to pass. "It's attractive for students coming from out of town," Mrs. Ferguson said. "Niagara has tended to be a commuter college." The residence would be perfect for students away from home for the first time.

"Not just the fact that it's handy to be on campus, but it does increase student life," she said. "Of course if we had a Student Centre and a residence, the college would be a centre of activity in the evening as well."

The complex would house 250 students. Each unit would have several bedrooms, two bathrooms, a shared living room, and a kitchen. There would also be units for married couples, Mrs. Ferguson said. One building would be completely barrier-free for disabled students.

CE collecting Christmas presents

Continuing Education Christmas food basket project is appealing to students and staff for donations for the benefit of the community resource action centre.

The project will accept donations in the form non-perishable and nutritious food. New toys, knitted scarves and coloring books will be collected for distribution by the Christmas basket exchange program.

Nancy Cain, project organizer, said groceries and gifts valued at $1,000 were donated last year and "we're hoping to do better than last year." Four hundred families received gifts a year ago.

Boxes have been placed at the continuing education office, Welland campus, and the main office at the St. Catharines campus.

252 drop out blaming strike

Three hundred and forty-nine of 3,283 full-time students have withdrawn from Niagara College this term, twice last year's figure. Of these, 252 blamed the faculty strike.

The rate of strike-related withdrawals at Niagara is about average with the other community colleges in Ontario, seven per cent, John Parrett, college registrar, said.

Ninety-seven students dropped out before the strike. These were the figures as of Nov. 24, the final date by which students withdrawing because of the strike could get their tuition fees back.

Mr. Parrett said 195 of those leaving because of the strike were first-year students, "many of whom were unsure that they were in the right programs and took this opportunity to withdraw."

Students who withdrew by Nov. 24 were entitled to apply for a full refund of all tuition fees paid for the 1989-90 academic year. The tuition fee refund was in accordance with a policy by the Committe of College Presidents by which reasons the college reasonably considered to be strike-related would entitle students to a tuition refund.

Mr. Parrett said students who withdrew went through counselling and some of those in general college and business programs intend to re-register in January.

"If we maintain the same percentage level of withdrawals with other colleges, it won't affect our funding a great deal," Mr. Parrett said.

The college will be refunded the tuition fee reimbursements.

Will that be cash or charge?

Part-time students registering for the January intake will for the first time be allowed to use Visa or Mastercard to pay their tuition fees, John Parrett, college registrar, said.

Registration for continuing classes began Monday and continues until Jan. 8.

Niagara's move comes after surveying the system in Humber College, Toronto, and Algonquin, Ottawa. Students in other colleges across Ontario already use charge cards to pay thier tuition fees. The system has been found to be more convenient for part-time students and reflected an increase in registration.

"The college will pay two per cent service charges, but there will be an overall increase of revenue brought up in registration," Mr. Parrett said.

Facultygets six per cent

The mediator-arbitrator in the recent faculty strike has given the faculty a six per cent salary increase in each year of a two-year contract.

The strike which lasted for 28 days ended without an agreement between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents the teachers, and the Council of Regents.

Barry Sharpe, vice-president of the Niagara College faculty union, said in terms of the entire package the "new agreement is better than the offer on the table before the strike."

However, Mr. Sharpe said "most teachers will conclude that the four weeks' strike was a very high price to pay for the improvements." He said the new agreement is better in job security areas, and the new sick leave plan.

A communique from OPSEU said the arbitrator's award is a "vindication of the union's position." The award gives the union new lay-off protection and a good start toward a retraining program. It also gives the union the right to challenge the use of non-union part-time and sessional teachers to the detriment of full-time faculty.

"We were also fighting against an employer demand for concessions on sick leave, and we hung onto a cumulative sick leave plan for all faculty," OPSEU President James Clancy said.

A new plan will give all employees 20 days a year of cumulative sick leave. However, Mr. Clancy said the union was disappointed that Martin Teplitsky had awarded only six per cent in wages each year. He has ordered a study of salary relationships between secondary school teachers, college faculty and university faculty.

Editorials

Drivers beware

'Tis the season to be jolly! But around Niagara College 'tis the few weeks to be anxious! Not that we need another vacation, but these days off will serve as cherished memories with friends and family which will last a lifetime.

For out-of-towners who did not return to their hometown during the strike, or even Thanksgiving for that matter, the trip home will be extra special. Friends they have not seen, places they have not been to and things they have not done since the summer; in two weeks it will all be yours! You may do with it as you wish, but do it in a safe manner please. The danger of drinking and driving cannot be stressed enough. And with the busiest time of the year approaching, we need to be reminded.

Think before you drink. If you know you will be drinking during the holidays, take a cab, appoint someone as designated driver, arrange to have a parent pick you up or you could even use your personal vehicle — your feet!

You can do all the things you would like to do until your heart is content, but come back to Niagara in one piece. Have a very merry Christmas and all the best in the new year.

Paula Ritz

Holidays here — but don't blink

The value of Christmas. To some it is nothing more than a price tag. To others it has sentimental value and to most it has a religious aspect.

Whatever your angle is for Christmas, you'd better be well prepared this year. With the holidays axed in half, you only have two days before Dec. 25 to absorb the Christmas spirit; catch it quick, or you'll miss it.

Christmas will be over before you realize it was there and New Year's will sneak in. Have fun this New Year's Eve, but not too much, remember you have to be up and alive for school at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 2, 1990. There's no Rose Bowl for the out-of-town students; they'll spend New Year's Day driving back to Welland with a swollen head. 'Tis the season!

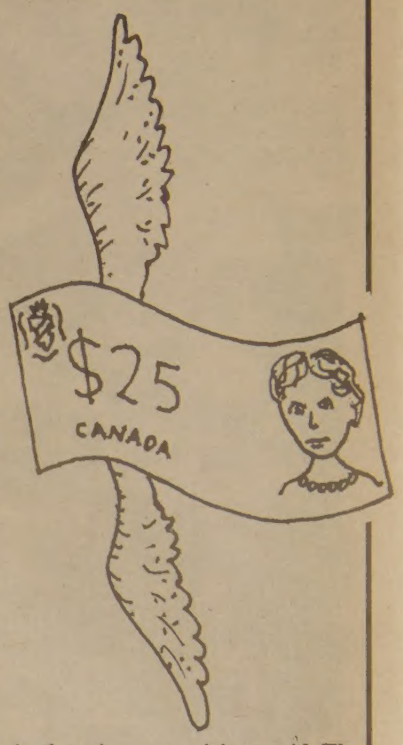
You have 10 days to ring in the holiday spirit, so make the best of it. Remember this Christmas is a limited time edition, so deck the halls, but be quick about it.

Sheila McBrayne

Bullpit

Students remembered for funding of Centre?

By TONY POST
Staff Writer



Next to a tree-lined hill in the wide open grasslands between the Black Walnut and Simcoe buildings at Niagara College, there stands a beautiful new building. This building, however, is not just another pile of bricks on college property: it is a magnet for students who come here to relax in a comfortable atmosphere away from books and pens and such things of academia.

This building, which contains a licensed lounge — smokers welcome — a restaurant, and a recreational area, is not only a boost to the ego of its architect, but also a memorial to former students who have never seen it. Students like you and me.

Yes, that's right. More than 10 per cent of the proposed Student Centre's $800,000 cost will come from a $25 Student Centre fee which was included in this year's registration fee.

We really should consider it quite an honor that we, young and unexceptional though we may be, have such a fabulous memorial erected to our tribute. Few people are honored with memorials. Those who are have often worked at some worthy cause or pursued some unachievable goal for years.

Why then, are we being commemorated? Well, why not? We paid for it didn't we?

But seriously, the idea of SAC taking $25 from each of us for a proposed Student Centre that we will never get to use is like putting a grade A New York sirloin steak in the microwave; it's stupid. The steak would be robbed of its flavor and so, too, the students are being robbed of their money.

Granted, SAC is putting up $200,000 of its own money to help pay for the centre. But why are they taking money from students who won't benefit from their contributions? To make this wrong right, SAC should erect a plaque with the names of students who paid for but never got to use the centre, so that future students know who to thank for their beautiful building.

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Editors' note

The Niagara News regrets any embarrassment its page of letters may have caused Hans Miethig, co-ordinator of the Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture program. Mr. Miethig was selected to receive the American Society for Engineering Education's Outstanding Educator Award. He is the first Canadian to be so honored.

The letters to Mr. Miethig were directed to him through the Niagara News, hence the salutations "Dear Hans," and "Dear Mr. Miethig," from program graduates and others. He was unaware of what the News planned after it began receiving the letters.

The explanation for the page of letters, under the headline, did not appear as was planned.

The accolades followed the page one story and inside story on Mr. Miethig's achievement.

One page was not sufficient to carry all of the congratulatory letters, but he has received them all.

The Editors
Niagara News

Get it write!

Student waxes grammatical

By KAREN GIBSON
First-year journalism

This is for all English students struggling to arm themselves in the grammatical battle of words.

The Spl'ice of Life

Dear fellow classmates:

During English class, do you ever find your mind battling with your ear trying to choose the correct grammatical answer? Do you feel fragmented and confused by sentences? Do you find your undecided hand hovering stationary over the stationery? Is the right answer "lay" or "lie"; and what about "disinterested" and "uninterested"?

Is it so incredible that there are so many incredulous English students?

It is very eminent to emanate clearly the imminent danger of choosing and using confusing words in English class. It is almost certain to affect the kind of effect you want your answers to convey.

It is important to know where grammar and spelling problems lie, in order to correct and lay to rest the latter, and later devise a device to proceed with the former, before proceeding any further (or is it farther?).

If the object of the preposition is clear, there should not be a lack of agreement between the mind and the hand. The clause of the problem was being too subordinate and not independent enough. And it doesn't help to have misplaced those modifiers, but perhaps they are up there somewhere among the dangling participles.

As the hand dutifully writes, the mind prays for omission of errors, but the memory lags, and gives only incomplete thoughts. There are a few brief, but satifying thoughts of trying to overwhelm with metaphors, in hopes that it wood deaden the effect of any inept answers.

The hands of the clock mercifully still the weary hands of the students' until the next English class.

Remember not to get hung up (or is it hanged?) by any inverted words. Don't let a phrase faze you, an apostrophe turn into a catastrophe, or a comma send you into a coma!

P.S. If you were able to understand this letter, take it as a compliment, as it could be considered a complement to English and may help with subject(ive) completion.

Letter to Santa

Lori

Gregory

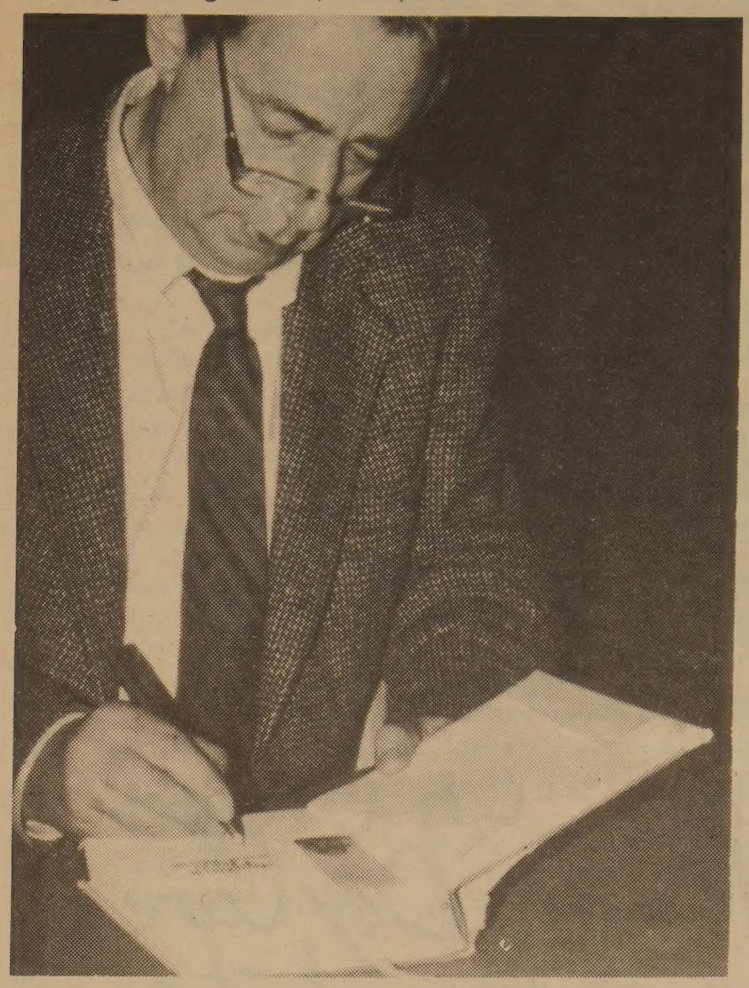
Ashley

Amanda

The children in Group 6 at Niagara College Day Care have tried very hard to be good this year. Our list includes a stroller for Amanda, a Batmobile for Adam, Chris would like a Superman suit. To keep Chris company, Matthew would like Batman suit with a hat. Kristie Lee would like a clown costume, and Lindsay Ashley would like Little Miss Makeup.

Lori would like Little Miss Dress up. Kendel would like a Keeper that opens. Cassandra wants a doll and Eric wants a Superman toy. We hope you will have a good Christmas, and we'll be sure to leave carrots and cookies. Love the children

ECE children at Niagara



Niagara's peacemaker gets medal

By MARIA PULE
Staff Writer

A man who is dedicated to the establishment of world peace was honored on Tuesday with 1989 Canada Peace Medal as part of events marking the Young Men's Christian Association World Peace Week.

James Nicholas, Niagara College teacher and International Secretary of the World Council for Global Co-operation, was presented with the medal by Don Austen, president of the YMCA board of directors.

Mr. Austen said Mr. Nicholas has concerns towards peace; therefore, YMCA feels it is important to recognize local men and women, particularly of the international stature of Mr. Nicholas, who are giving leadership in the world quest for a lasting global peace.

The medal presentation was part of special events conducted each year at this time to observe the YMCA World Peace Week proclaimed by the World Council of YMCAs in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Austen said it was the first time the Welland Area Family YMCA gave out the medal.

Mr. Nicholas, who wrote an Appeal for Peace which was endorsed by 66 Nobel Prize winners, called upon the nations to solve the world's five major problems: violation of human rights; social injustice; pervasive poverty; militarism and violence; and ecological crisis.

He said people in their thousands have disappeared, and the Holocaust is happening in poor countries such as Mozambique and Cambodia which have become battle grounds for super powers.

"Unimaginable crimes are committed against people just for political reasons. Genocide is not an internal matter: it is an international matter." Mr. Nicholas said countries like Canada should interfere. "Fundamentally, all people are fellow human beings."

One out of every four people in the world is suffering from malnutrition while food in wealthy nations goes towards feeding livestock, he said. Rich countries should forgive the debts of poor countries which pay more by way of imports.

"When poor countries tighten the belt, the weakest members of society, children and old people, are allowed to die."

Mr. Nicholas blamed this poverty on $1 trillion military expenditure by nations engaged in the arms race. He said the resources of this world belong to people, and military expenditure must cease.

Scientists predict that nations will be doomed as effects of environmental crisis increase.

Mr. Nicholas was one of the founders of the Niagara Peace Movement in the 1970s.

Richler's 'literary life'

By LISA CHOMA
Staff Writer

Walking to the lectern, peering casually over the top rim of his glasses, pausing before his address to those in the theatre, Mordecai Richler began in his inexhaustible voice to speak of his "literary" life.

"Looking back," he recalled, "I fear that to begin with I did not so much want to write as to be a writer."

In his symposium at Brock University's Playhouse Nov. 28, the Canadian novelist was celebrating the publication of his ninth novel, Solomon Gursky Was Here.

Being a writer does have its advantages, he explained. Questions still surface at cocktail parties, such as "What kind of novels do you write? and Why do you do it?"

Mr. Richler broke the audience's waiting silence.

"Legendary, seminal, filthy ... it's as if writing, like housebreaking, or pushing drugs is somehow socially questionable."

In an enchanting chronicle of his school days, he told of being absorbed by books of "daunting existence."

Unhappy families

"At the age of 13, in 1944, happily as yet untainted by English 101, I couldn't tell you whether a Marx novel was a) a slice of white, b) symbolic, c) psychological, or d) seminal."

"I couldn't even say if it was well or badly written. In fact, as I recall, it didn't seem to be written at all. It just flowed."

As an adolescent, he read fiction at night with the benefit of a flashlight, realizing, he admitted, there was a larger world out there far from St. Urbain Street in Montreal.

"I sat with, but actually apart from, my family in the kitchen, enthralled, reading for the first time that all happy families are alike, but an unhappy family is unhappy in its own fashion."

He hesitated a moment, then said: "My God, I would not be 13 again for anything."

Mr. Richler rarely shifted position, his hands at the sides of the podium, occasionally lifting them to turn the pages of his precise, witty, rhetoric.

"Writers are an inhibited bunch. Among them there is a generosity, a commitment to the craft, a tendency to help, and Norman Mailer's phrase: "Anybody who is trying to add an inch to the house."

Reminiscing about his years in Paris, he said he was surrounded by great French literature, scornful of his own natural material (St. Urbain Street), considering it far too commonplace for fiction.

"Now, of course, I understand that writing that doesn't advertise itself is art from a very high order; it doesn't come easily. But at the time I was incapable of making such distinctions."

His first published novel was The Acrobats. Two novels later, Mr. Richler found his own "voice" and wrote The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz, of which he remarked, "The pillars of Montreal's Jewish Community have never forgiven me."

Writing habit

After Joshua Then And Now, written in 1980, critics declared "Duddy" a comic classic.

Woven into his satirical comments about writers, he mused about distant compulsions, and inspiration.

"I could do with less self-pity, less dollar-a-word complaining about the lonely craft, and how Hell is a blank sheet of paper.

"We weren't drafted," he testified; "we volunteered."

Solomon Gursky Was Here is a 557 page novel featuring dozens of characters, multiple plots and settings, and a time line spanning 150 years.

In an interview with Maclean's magazine, Mr. Richler said it is an adventure story, a mystery novel, social satire, a crazy historical and biblical epic, and a tale of unfulfilled love.

"Writing is a habit; we all endure our bad days, but we do get on with them," he said.

In a sardonic, but poignant end to his soliloquy, he added:"Even so, I am stuck with my original notion, which is to be an honest witness to my time, my place, and to write at least one novel that will be remembered after death."

À votre santé
À votre service

Désormais, les services d'information et de santé assurés directement par le ministère de la Santé sont offerts en français et en anglais.

En 1986, la Loi sur les services en français a conféré aux Ontariens francophones le droit de recevoir les services gouvernementaux dans leur langue. Les francophones de l'Ontario peuvent recevoir une gamme variée de services de santé en français et le nombre de services offerts en français augmentera progressivement.

Par ailleurs, le ministère de la Santé s'efforce aussi d'assurer la prestation de services en français au niveau local. Le ministère collabore étroitement avec les conseils régionaux de santé, les bureaux de santé, les hôpitaux et les autres organismes offrant des services de santé pour les aider à planifier et à offrir des services de santé en français de haute qualité dans les 22 régions désignées de la province. Notre objectif d'ici 1995 est de faire en sorte qu'au moins 75 % des services provinciaux soient offerts en français dans les endroits où la proportion de la population francophone est importante.

La population de l'Ontario constatera un accroissement graduel du nombre et de la variété de services de santé offerts en français.

À compter de maintenant, et au cours des prochaines années, le ministère de la Santé accordera une attention prioritaire aux besoins de la population francophone de l'Ontario.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur les services de santé en français, veuillez téléphoner ou écrire au Centre d'information-santé. En français ou en anglais, c'est à vous de choisir.

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Centre d'information-santé
Ministère de la Santé
9e étage, Édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1S2

Ministère de la Santé
Ontario
Elinor Caplan, ministre

Design college parade float

By LISA CHOMA
Staff Writer

Niagara College has $2,000 to create a parade float, and the Student Administrative Council is sponsoring a theme and design contest inviting all students to compete for a $100 cash prize.

Larry Clark, a technologist in the mechanical division, submitted the idea a couple of years ago. It was re-submitted and funding approved this year.

"I see it as a spirit builder," he said. "Lately, when you hear about Niagara College it is always something negative and that doesn't make staff or students feel good."

What is needed now is a theme, some genuine enthusiasm, and an organizing committee to get the project on its feet.

Mr. Clark is looking for volunteers, and welcomes students and staff and family members of both to become involved.

"We would have to do something to make it recognizable, and that means planning our own design and building it our own way," he said.

Three Parades

The float will be entered in the Niagara Falls Blossom Festival, the Welland Rose Festival, and the St. Catharines Grape and Wine Festival parades.

"We are starting from scratch, but if it works we can carry it on," Mr. Clark said.

Barbara Blue, a journalism teacher who goes to the Grape and Wine Festival parade every year, was delighted to here that Niagara will have its own float.

"It's wonderful news, and high time," she said. "Brock has a great float and generates a lot of enthusiasm.

Mr. Clark indicated that students would have to consider present work loads, coupled with the fact that many students will be out of school when the parades take place.

"The idea is questionable to some, only because the work will get done, the float will be entered, the credit will be given, but the students won't be around," he said.

Marvellous Idea

Fred Habermehl, Niagara College's executive dean, said it is a marvellous idea.

"We should have this kind of public presence in our local community celebration. It is a bit late, but something spontaneous is much better than that which has been laid on."

"We have the resources," Mr. Clark said. "We just need people to pull the project together. It should be a concerted effort, and I would rather see it as a success as opposed to an embarrassment."

Since there will be media coverage of the parades, it would be an asset advertising the college.

Ideas can be submitted to the SAC office. Requirements include an idea for theme, a short description of what the float should be like, and a rough sketch. Entrants should bear in mind the maximum working fund of $2,000 when creating their design.

The deadline for entries is Jan. 15, 1990, and the name of the winner will be announced Jan. 19.

Gotham goodies gone!

Holy horrors! Batman has flown off with two Niagara College crests and students are steamed.

The caped crusader disappeared from a bulletin board in Simcoe building and rumor has it that some "Joker" made off with him.

Educational Resources and Special Needs students post elaborate bulletin boards as a requirement for their program and after their hard work, are finding items missing from their displays.

Cathy Crichton, ERSN student, said the students put a lot of hard work and time into the presentation of their boards and it "really upsets us when we walk by them and someone has taken something from them."

Batman has been a big hit this year but, stealing is not something he represents. He is a good guy, not bad.

Registrations

The registrar's office has started mailing out second term registration packages to full-time students with information on electives and other options.

Lucy Riolino, records officer, advised students to pay their tuition before Christmas to avoid the $30 late payment charge. Fees are payable by Dec. 22 and late registration will start on Jan. 2.

Transcripts for fall term grades will be mailed out after the winter term begins. The timetable for the 1990 term will be out in mid-January.

Double think

Please stop and think,
Before you go out and drink,
Give your keys to your husband or wife,
You could be saving a precious life,
The road will get blurry,
So save others the worry,
Pick up the phone,
Arrange for someone to drive you home,
It is called self-control,
And that's safe surviving,
So please before you drink,
Stop and double think.

Students Against Drunk Driving
Dave Cronk

DECISIONS. DECISIONS.

Choose Sugarless Dentyne For Fresh Breath And You Could Win One Of 10 Trips For 2 To Vail Or Rio!

Canadian Holidays

Choose between the slopes of Vail, Colorado or the surf of Rio de Janeiro. **Trip includes:** Return airfare, hotel transfers, hotel accommodation and ski pass (Vail only.) Simply complete this entry form and affix two UPC Proofs of Purchase (or reasonable hand drawn facsimile not mechanically reproduced) from any flavour of Sugarless Dentyne gum and you could be on your way to VAIL or RIO! Deposit your entry in the ballot box at your school newspaper office or mail it to: Dentyne VAIL/RIO Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 9041E, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4T2.

Contest closes January 15, 1990 at 5:00 pm.
Draw to be held January 31, 1990

Attach UPC proofs here.

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Destination of choice:
☐ Vail Colorado ☐ Rio de Janeiro

Name _____
School _____
Address _____
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Prizes must be accepted as awarded (Maximum retail value: $3500.00). Full contest rules are available at your school newspaper office or by sending a stamped, self addressed envelope to: Dentyne VAIL/RIO Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 9041F, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4T2.

Barbados traditions : Santa Claus by boat , turkey and beaches

By RICHMOND MAHEHE
Staff Writer

Nichols Donowa, a first-year business administration student, said people in the Caribbean islands do have Santa Claus — but he comes in a boat instead of in a sleigh. "Kids sit with him and tell him what they want on Christmas."

Nichols said he has never believed in Santa Claus because of the North American belief that Santa Claus comes down a chimney. In Barbados nobody has a chimney.

The Caribbean-born student does not like Christmas because business capitalizes on it. He said he can't afford to spend for Christmas Day.

However, he hopes people will not think him a Scrooge because he does not like Christmas. "It is great, people should have a great time."

Nichols who comes from Barbados said it is also a tradition among his people to put Christmas trees inside houses and decorate outside with colorful lights.

He usually goes to church early on Christmas Day together with his family. Afterwards they go to the beach till 12 noon when they return home for a big Christmas lunch of either turkey or roast beef.

They then exchange practical gifts such as pocket watches, sweaters, and other clothing. The rest of the day is spent listening to Christmas carols while waiting for dinner at his grandmother's house.

Nichols who attended high school in Canada, spent a year in the United States, but says he prefers Canada.

However, it is his home country which he loves best. He describes Barbados as a Paradise.

Nichols will be joined by his mother and young sister this month to celebrate Christmas here in Canada.

Encourage donations for needy

The Student Administrative Council is asking for donations from students to help provide Christmas presents for the needy.

In a letter to all program coordinators, Tracy Luby, SAC vice-president of external affairs, said SAC is collecting unwrapped toys and unperishable goods to donate to the needy. "We are asking you to encourage your students to donate."

Tracy said Christmas is an unimportant day for some families because they cannot afford to put food on their table or gifts under the tree for their children.

The class which collects most will be treated to a pizza party compliments of SAC. Goods collected should be delivered to the SAC office not later than Dec. 19.

Donna Flutur, SAC office manager, said donations will be sent to the Community Christmas Organization which will then distribute them to the needy.

Humane Society discourages giving pets as Christmas gifts

ALISON OLSEN
Staff Writer

Every year, parents buy their children cuddly little puppies and kittens for Christmas. Many of the animals are returned because the child did not want the animal or cannot adequately take care of it. Some are simply thrown out into the cold. This makes for a bleak Christmas for the unfortunate animals.

"It is the responsibility of the owners to care for the animal. After all, the parents pick out the dog or cat, not the child," said Lito Gaba, operations manager at the Niagara Falls Humane Society.

"We try to discourage people from giving puppies and kittens as gifts."

Inspection

The Humane Society now asks people if the animal is going to be a gift for someone. If the pet is going to be a gift, the Humane Society sends someone to the person's house for an inspection. The size of the house is recorded and the yard is inspected. If all this is satisfactory, then the animal may be adopted.

The person then signs a contract stating that the animal will be spayed or neutered. If the contract is not signed, the animal stays in the shelter.

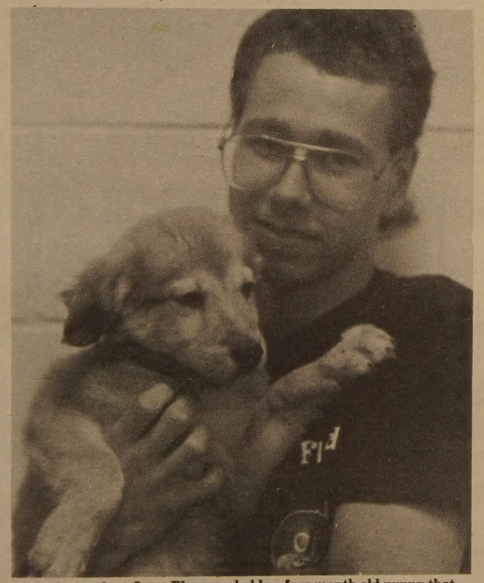
Children often visit the Humane Society at Christmastime requesting an animal for their parents as a present. "We tell them to come back with their parents," Mr. Gaba said.

"Most of the kittens will be adopted in about two weeks," he said. "Around 10 per cent of dogs and cats are returned."

The Humane Society is funded by donations, city contracts, grants from the city and by bequests. Money is also raised by fundraising campaigns.

Behind the desk is a huge Christmas tree surrounded by bags and cans of food that people have donated. Two cats atop the desk doze peacefully, occasionally mewing in their sleep.

The shelter can only hold 44 dogs and 44 cats. The animals are kept for four days. Animals with good health, character and temperament have a good chance at finding loving homes. Not all so lucky.



Kennel attendant Jerry Plummer holds a four-month-old puppy that is up for adoption at the Niagara Falls Humane Society. The puppy, along with his little brother who is also at the shelter, is part Labrador Retriever and part German Shepherd. The dog needs a loving home but it is not a good idea for him to be found under the tree on Christmas Day with a red bow on his head and tinsel dangling from his tail.

Photo by Alison Olsen

Christmas in India

Christmas celebrated in sunny Calcutta

By GOLEKANYE MOLAPISI
Staff Writer

It is sunny and warm in Calcutta, India, and Christmas is less then three weeks away. People are excited not because Christmas is coming, but because they have just elected a new leader; Rajiv Gandhi is out and V.P. Singh is in.

Santanu Gangoly, a second-year electrical engineering technology student, is not amused by the change in leadership, "everything will remain the same," he said.

A Hindu by religion, the 20-year old native of Calcutta said although India has many religions which are non Christian, Christmas is still widely celebrated. The Hindus, Moslems and Sikhs are the dominant religious groups in India, a country with about 800 million people.

Despite religious differences, Santanu said all religious groups take part in the almost global celebration and family get together.

"Santa Claus is found in the heart of the city, not in every corner like in Canada," he said. Christmas is more of a social occasion than a religious one in India. "I go to four or five parties to celebrate Christmas and Christians go to church."

Christmas in India is a secular, rather than a religious holiday. Businesses and government offices are closed on Dec. 25.

Though Santanu thinks Christmas in Canada is too commercialized, he also had this to say: "It is gorgeous; it is better than at home; the festive mood is more widespread and more people are conscious of Christmas.

Christmas day in Botswana seen only through memories of distant student

BY BOME MATSHABA
Staff Writer

The break of dawn found a foreign student at Niagara College, fully awake in his bed. Something which he could not pin down was persistently nagging at his mind. The more he tried to probe his mind, the more it eluded him. At last, he dejectedly lay back and stared blindly at the ceiling. A few minutes elapsed, then Silent Night came loud and clear through the thin walls of his rented room. That's it! It was Christmas Day. Excitement seized him making his heart beat haphazardly. Suddenly, he was back in his dusty rural village.

Christmas Day in Botswana is an extraordinary day. Its festive mood and excitement are unmatched by any other day except perhaps Independence Day. Christmas mornings are spent preparing food and cleaning up the homes in anticipation of the afternoon events. Unlike Canadians, Batswana do not have a special meal for Christmas. They give themselves a treat, something they do not eat often. Some people go to their various churches, but most stay at home.

Beer

Some families throw Christmas parties. Traditional beer is brewed in big barrels and prepared well in advance so that it is ready on Christmas Day. A cow is slaughtered on Christmas morning (due to lack of refrigerators) and cooked in big pots over an open fire. By the afternoon the food will be ready and guests will start arriving. Everybody is invited to such parties. Food and beer are given to everyone present. By late afternoons after the beer has taken effect, there will be much jubliation and merriment.

Christmas Day comes at an opportune time for most people. It comes when the farmers are still in the village before the rains take them to the fields. Herdboys come to the villiage to celebrate with their kin. Miners too come home to spend Christmas with their loved ones after spending sometimes up to 12 months working on South African mines.

Batswana enjoy celebrating Christmas in their villages because it is celebrated traditionally which makes it more thrilling and entertaining to them. Christmas to them is not only for celebrating the birth of Christ, but also a reunion of families, relatives and friends who have not seen each other for a long time. It also enables the villagers to interact with town people and catch up with the latest fashion.

One of the most spectacular, captivating and prominent events of the day is the conclave of choirs at the Chief's court in the afternoon. Choirs, dressed in their colorful uniforms attract and delight hundreds of onlookers with their new melodious songs and awesome dancing.

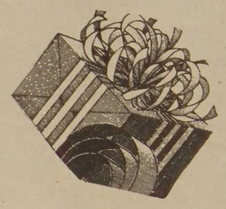
Sports

For sports lovers, events culminate in a soccer game between the village rival teams. Thousands of people converge at the local playground to see their favorite team win or be humiliated. It is an event which never fails to leave a lasting impression on all who see it. The teams play for a prize donated by local businessmen, but everybody knows the real prize is gaining supremacy over the other.

Christmas in Botswana is celebrated by the whole community. Its success depends on the number of people who take part in the events. On the other hand, the Canadian Christmas seems to be a quiet family affair — the snow Santa Claus, Christmas tree, gift exchange and turkey each forming its integral part.

Christ's birthday is not accompanied by any entrenched symbols in Botswana, though the people know that it is a time when they should share whatever they have with their less fortunate brothers. It is a time of reconciliation and discarding of old feuds. It is a time of rejoicing for what one has achieved over the last year and looking forward to another year with even greater optimism.

As students from various countries celebrate Christmas in Canada, there is no doubt that they will be back home with their families and friends in their minds on Christmas Day.



Blue Christmas not lonely, stressful, Bruce Tallon says

By PAULA RITZ
Staff Writer

A middle-aged man sits alone beside the soft-glowing fireplace; he contemplates his life. The repetition of twinkling Christmas lights on the tree brings to mind the joy of Christmas as a young boy; setting out cookies and milk for Santa and his reindeer, the cherished expressions of present-openers, the love and the laughter.

The man compares his present lifestyle to his past and he realizes how much things have changed. He carries the burden of guilt and embarrassment as a result of not having the ability to relate to family members. Alienation seems to be the only alternative. Soon his feelings turn to depression; he considers suicide.

Ignorance

The scene set above is a myth which is believed by people everywhere due to ignorance. If asked when the most likely time of the year individuals will commit suicide, the answer usually is, "Christmas time — it's the loneliest time of the year."

Fact is, in 1987 Ontario statistics recorded that in the month of December, 67 males and 25 females committed suicide, Bruce Tallon, psychology teacher at Niagara College, said. This is about the average statistic in each month of the year; therefore, the holiday has very little to do with suicides.

There are a lot of masked suicides and many don't really take into account the number of attempts," Mr. Tallon said.

If anything causes suicide in December, stress would outweigh loneliness. "People don't feel they are in control of their lives at Christmas," Mr. Tallon said.

Today's world produces too many complexities. People who must deal with stress fall into a trap and do not know how to deal with them. And at Christmas, the world seems to be "more complex," Mr. Tallon said.

depression

The pressures of Christmas can cause depression, but depression does not always lead to suicide. During the holidays relating to family and friends whom one would not normally relate to can be difficult. If people do manage to deal with it, then they may worry about being hypocrites.

In psychology, there is a concept called Developmental Readiness. If a child who cannot read is forced to read, it becomes frustrating for the child and makes if difficult for him to learn anything else. Basically the child must be ready and willing to learn on his own, Mr. Tallon explained.

The same consideration is needed when dealing with the people not dealt with throughout the year. It is not time for them to relate. The individual should not allow himself to be pulled into a situation that they are not ready for because they would then have to learn how to deal with the feeling of hypocrisy.

Marg Elliot from the Stress Centre in St. Catharines said looking three months down the line from Christmas, there are a lot more suicides. "Each case is an individual case and is assessed differently."

Persistent depression should be treated, but sometimes one may feel too tired to do anything about it, she said. If help is sought the problem can sometimes be eliminated.

Although there are a lot of problems to be dealt with during the holidays, suicide is not the answer. Problems can be solved with time.

Symptoms

There are a number of symptoms when someone is considering suicide, but the most noticeable ones are often not detected by friends and family.

Signs of a possible suicide attempt are depression, physical and emotional appearances; a teenage victim will begin to give precious possessions to friends, brothers and sisters, and older victims will get their finances in order.

An unknown author sent a poem to The Weekend Magazine some years ago that made a lot of sense: "Razors pain you, rivers are damp, acids stain you, and drugs cause cramp. Guns aren't lawful, nooses give, gas smells awful — you might as well live."

The myth that December is suicide month is just a myth and that is all it is. Christmas really isn't the loneliest time of year, it's the busiest.

Santa today man of many faces

By TONY POST
Staff Writer

With a gentle urging from their master, the eight reindeer, seemingly oblivious to the chill around them, begin their long journey south. Slowly the sturdy sleigh starts to glide through the snow and ice, picking up speed until it breaks away from the ground. As the sleigh gains altitude, Santa's cozy little house fades to a speck in the white wilderness he calls home.

Santa doesn't mind the cold. His red cheeks tell that he is smiling underneath his flowing beard. No one knows for sure how old Santa is, and he won't tell. He did say however, that since he gave up smoking his pipe, on doctor's orders, he's felt much healthier. That is not to say he wouldn't rather curl up in front of the fire with a good book instead of flying around in a sleigh. " If only I could get some of those helpers to make these deliveries," he laments, referring to the thousands of Santa-wanna-be's found in shopping malls and on street corners world wide.

Poor hours

Despite the bad working hours, Santa likes his job. He meets some interesting characters.

" I know you're not the real Santa," one little girl said to him. " I saw the real one last year and you don't look anything like him."

With so many look-alike Santas around, it's easy to see how she could have been confused.

Santa has also frightened many timid children with his intimidating " Ho Ho Ho." However, the Santa we know today is a far cry from one of his forefathers. Pelznickel, a German night visitor, knew all the children's secrets. He also knew whether they had been good or bad and rewarded them accordingly, a troublesome prospect for an adventurous five-year-old.

Santa has a complex genealogy. Another of his ancestors was St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Asia. There are several legends which tell of St. Nicholas, but the one that provides a link between him and children is a gruesome tale.

During one of his journeys, St. Nicholas came across the dismembered bodies of three children who had been murdered by an innkeeper. St. Nicholas put the pieces back together and returned the children to their parents, thus becoming the patron saint of children.

In Italy it is said that the good witch Befana wanders the earth looking for the baby Jesus. She leaves presents at every door in case He is there.

Santa has his share of presents to prepare, too. " Mechanization has replaced most of the elves ever since they started talking about forming a union," he said. "Mrs. Claus never liked those little munchkins anyway."

Many may wonder why she doesn't accompany him on his trips. " Mrs. Claus prefers to keep a low profile," Santa explains. " She likes it at home."

Too fat

A grouping of lights below indicates the first drop site. Contrary to popular belief, Santa doesn't actually enter every house by chimney. " I wouldn't fit in most of them," he laughs. Instead he drops a bag of presents, and using a little magic, sends them to their destinations.

" If I were to personally deliver every present, the people in Australia wouldn't get theirs until July."

The sleigh does make things easier for Santa. When he first came to America in the 1600s he rode a white horse. At that time he was called Sante Klaas, and came riding out of the night sky on Dec.5.

He has changed his mode of transportation many times since those early days. In the 1800s he was reported riding in a sleigh pulled by 12 reindeer. Late in that century, the number of reindeer was cut to eight. " With a little training we found eight to be just as airworthy," Santa said. " Not to mention all the money we saved on feed."

In 1896 Santa was seen driving a car, and in 1911 he piloted an airship. He keeps up with the times just like the rest of us. However, he still prefers his sleigh and team of reindeer. " Cars pollute and airships can sometimes explode."

As the last presents trickle down to earth, Rudolph leads the other reindeer through the turn which sends them northward. Santa's sleigh, trailing stardust, disappears into the night sky, not to be seen until next year.

Helps local needy

Salvation Army launches Christmas crusade

By VIRGIL KLASSEN
Staff Writer

In the malls, sounds of Christmas music can already be heard above the hubbub of harried shoppers, but soon another sound will be added to the Christmas symphony. As Christmas draws nearer, Salvation Army volunteers will be ringing their bells as they collect donations for those who need to feel the spirit of this season the most.

This Salvation Army tradition has a long history. Today the volunteers stand in front of clear plastic bubbles; in years past they stood in front of their "Christmas kettles." The technology has changed, but the spirit is the same — the money that goes into these containers will be used to help many people in many ways.

Every year, thousands of Canadians in need receive Christmas hampers on behalf of those who put money into these Salvation Army bubbles. And once Christmas has come and gone, the rest goes to a social welfare fund administered by the Army's Family Services branch which helps many people all through the year.

In St. Catharines, Army volunteers will be at three shopping malls, Fairview Mall, Lincoln Mall, and the Pen Centre. Their Christmas goal for St. Catharines is $20,000, Major John Richardson, Salvation Army Public relations director for the Niagara Region, said.

Goals

"We've reached our goals in the past," Major Richardson said, but the figures they use are just a guideline. Whatever funds they receive will be used.

"You meet the need with the resources you have."

Other cities in the Niagara region have also been assigned Christmas "kettle" goals. In the Niagara Falls area, the Salvation Army is aiming to collect $30,000. In Fort Erie the goal is $4,000, and for Welland the target is $12,000.

The Salvation Army posts in the malls are manned by volunteers. Some will be Salvationists, regular members of the Salvation Army, and the rest are people who want to help, Major Richardson said.

The Christmas "kettles" are just a tiny part of the Salvation Army's wide-ranging efforts. The Salvation Army was established in England in 1865 by William Booth. Their motto, "With heart to God and hand to man," soon stood as a symbol of their dedication to the physical and spiritual reclamation of lost humanity.

By 1900, the Salvation Army's men's hostels and women's shelters were a permanent feature of English society, and from England, the Salvation Army spread around the globe.

The Salvation Army came to Canada in 1882 and soon spread across the nation. Their persistent social work won them respect in all parts of this land.

The Salvation Army has an evangelical purpose, with a recognized church, but their social purpose has become much more prominent: language classes for new Canadians, parole supervision, Harbour Light centres for alcoholics, Sunset Lodges, Grace Hospitals,fresh air camps for underprivileged children, and drug addiction counselling.

Their general rule is to lend a willing hand in times of need. Year after year, decade after decade, the Salvation Army has been there whenever people needed a helping hand.

Reality

This season brings visions of happy families gathered in their cosy homes, just like the ones in the Christmas card scenes or on the television specials. But at this time of the year too, reality has a way of intruding and amplifying the inequalities all around.

At Christmas, Salvation Army efforts go far beyond their kettles. Many branches have special plans for this season. The Salvation Army's League of Mercy, a group of volunteers who visit hospitals and homes for the aged year round, make their round playing Christmas carols and passing out Christmas treats. The Salvation Army's Correctional Services department is in touch with inmates and their families, letting them know that someone is thinking of them at this time of year.

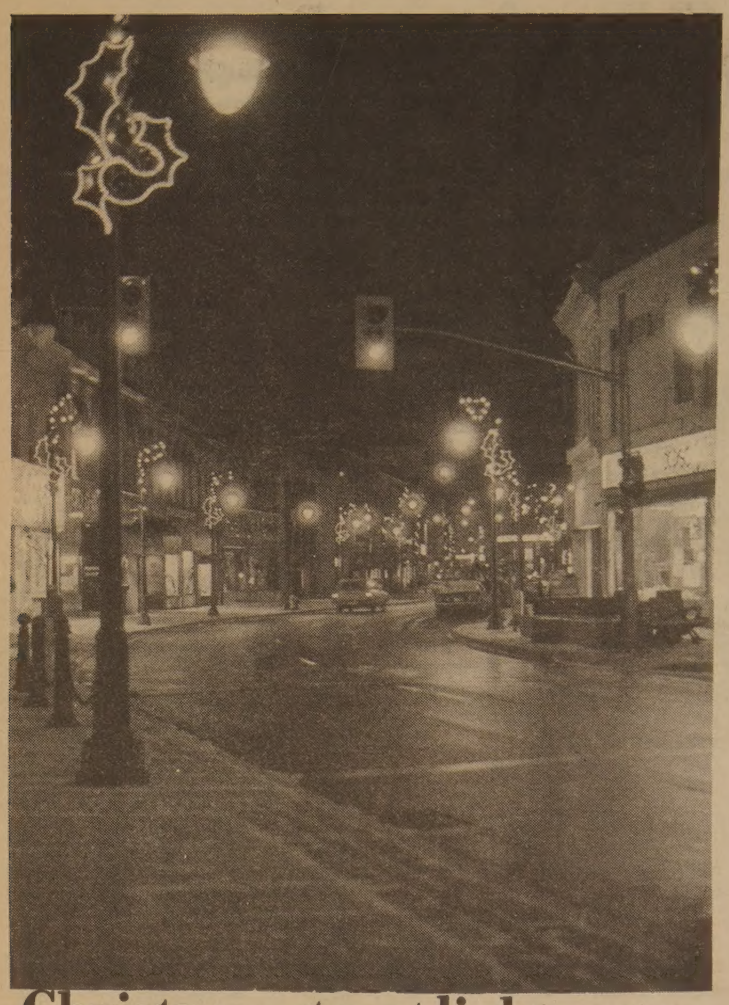
Throughout this Christian organization, at this time of year, and on every other day, the Salvation Army is trying to help. One reason Christmas is called Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Christ. The age-old story of how Jesus Christ came into the world among the poor and needy is easy to lose in all the glitter of this season.

Remembering that Christmas is, above all, a season of giving, the Salvation Army works to make Christmas just a little brighter for those who need it and appreciate it most.

Donation

This season is about observing traditions and age-old customs. The carols, the decorations, the gifts and the Salvation Army kettles are all part of why this season is so special.

On one of those hectic trips through the busy shopping malls, stop at one of the Salvation Army's Christmas kettles, put in some cash, and get a special Christmas feeling that few other customs can match.



Christmas street lights

As Christmas draws ever nearer, the streets of downtown St. Catharines have taken on a festive glow. Here on St. Paul Street, the Christmas lights and decorations glisten — even the traffic lights fit in to the color scheme of the season.

Photo by Virgil Klassen

CRNC gets CD

In keeping up with the ever changing times, Campus Radio Niagara College has acquired two new compact disc players.

"One is already installed in one of our production studios," Mark Vendittelli, second-year Radio and Television student, said.

CRNC is following in the footsteps of virtually all radio stations. "Most stations have gone to CD's now," Stu Black, radio teacher, said.

"Since lp's are being phased out, it will be better for us as far as practical work goes," Mark said.

CRNC will now have to build up its compact disc library. "We're also going to have to develop some kind of security system for the discs," Mr. Black said.

The Denon compact disc players, which are worth about $1,800 each are the same as those used by local radio station 97.7 HTZ FM. "It's a good system," Mr. Black said.

Oops

Ron Ireland, vice-chairman of the College Council executive and the first student on the executive, is a human relations student, not a public relations student as stated in the Niagara News Nov. 24. The Niagara News regrets its mistake.

Inquiry suggests limited drinking

By BRUCE CULP
Staff Writer

Ontario colleges and universities could feel the repercussions of the alcohol-related death of a young man at the University of Guelph, an inquiry said.

Proposals from the inquest came in early October after a jury reviewed the death of Richard Sloan, 19, who was found dead last January in a Guelph stairwell after a night of drinking heavily. He had choked on his vomit after consuming 16 drinks.

Mr. Sloan's death has again highlighted a long-standing dilemma for post-secondary institutions: excessive student drinking.

Recommendations from the inquest included raising the drinking age fron 19 to 21, training barstaff in alcohol consumption control and even levying harsh penalities on students in violation of alcohol policies on campus. The inquest even suggested expulsion for excessive violation.

Bette Ferguson, director of student services at Niagara College, said the college already has strigent measures for pub nights, but does not discourage any new measures which may arise out of the Sloan inquest. Under the right controlled regulations, pubs are part of the college experience for those of legal age, she said. All on-campus pubs organized by the Student Administrative Council must adhere to "top guidelines" set out by the college.

Still, Mrs. Ferguson sees possible changes in the future. "We are looking at giving all our people who work at pubs special training," she said. "Students will have to take a course before they can get hired. We are definately getting fussier about that."

Mrs. Ferguson suggested the Server Intervention Program, a 4½-hour course endorsed by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario. This course provides information to bar tenders for recognizing and preventing drunkenness before it becomes a problem. It gives bar staff proper techniques for managing indignant drunks.

SAC president Jim Acsai has been aware of the inquiry. "Most of our pub staff have worked in bars before," he said. He believes his staff has the necessary experience for the job. When Niagara pubs are away from campus, where alcohol is policed more by the bar than the college, it is out of his hands. "What can we do?" he said. An alcohol awareness week, important in raising student consciousness towards the harmful effects of alcohol, will be scheduled for the college some time in the future.

Testimony at the Sloan inquest revealed that students drink twice as much as those of the same age in the general population. The study suggested that student drinking should come under the same scrutiny as the campaign against drinking and driving.

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Familiar Christmas scene

Almost 2,000 years ago, a couple checked into the town of Bethlehem — their names were Mary and Joseph.There was no room for them at the local inn, so to a lowly stable they went. During the night, a baby was born, and they called him Jesus. It is because ofthe birth of this child so long ago that we celebrate this season called Christmas. This scene of the navity commemorating that occasion sits at the corner of St. Paul and Ontario Streets in St. Catharines.

Photo by Virgil Klassen

College fees to rise next year

College and university students will have to dig into their pockets as tuition fees have been increased by eight per cent for the 1990-91 academic year.

Provincial grants to colleges have also been raised by eight per cent but the college's share of the overall increase will probably be in the order of 1.7 per cent, Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration said.

"Because our funding will be less than the average, we know there's going to be a shortfall," Mr. van der Slagt said. "But we don't know what that shortfall is going to be." The ministry announced the increases last week.

The standard tuition fee this year is $685. Students also pay an extra $115 registration fee which consists of a $70 student activity fee, $25 student centre assessment, and $20 college fee which includes insurance, identity cards and lockers. The standard fee next year will be $740.

COLLEGE DECIDES

The registration fee is determined by colleges. "We haven't made a decision on the increase of the registration fee," Mr. van der Slagt said.

The eight per cent increase in provincial grants doesn't all go to colleges. A certain amount of the money is taken off the top to fund some projects and activities that are considered in the interests of the province such as technology training and literacy programs.

"So, by the time that increase is allocated to colleges, we'll be looking at something less than eight per cent," Mr. van der Slagt said.

The college's post-secondary programs are funded through provincial grants - proportional to a college's enrolment - and student fees which account for about 15 per cent of the cost of a student's education.

Mr. van der Slagt said that because Niagara College's growth was slower than the average for assistance, the college would get a smaller percentage increase than other colleges whose growth are faster.

The college would need eight per cent increase in both tuition and grants next year to cover its cost increases, Mr. van der Slagt said.

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Despite underfunding

Art gallery will remain open

Hennepin Gallery will not be closing "in the foreseeable future," Thomas Fraser, art gallery director, said. It will run, although it is under funded.

"The Gallery is still going, and we have every intention of keeping it going," Mr. Fraser said.

Carol Farrar, a curator of the gallery said, "There is always the possibility (of closing). We simply can't do it on the money that we've been getting. For the last 10 years or so we've been getting about $3,500 which at one point was almost more than we needed, and now (due to inflation), we really need about $6,000 to run for the entire year and we're just not getting it."

Two weeks ago Peggy Hill, a curator of the art gallery, said, "We'll try to stay open as long as we can; we'll try to say open until May but it doesn't seem likely."

On Dec. 1 the council decided not to close the gallery.

DANGER NOT REAL

"I don't think it was really in danger; we were going to decide what to do no Dec. 1 and we did," Mr. Fraser said. "We were deciding how to run the gallery based on the finances we had as of Dec.1

"The amount of money we've received from the Arts Council this year is less than it has been in the past; and, it'll involve some curtailment of the program that we had this year," Mr Fraser said. The gallery will run exhibitions for two months instead of one.

This year the gallery was granted $2,500 from the Ontario Arts Council. It has recieved $1,500 of the grant and is still waiting for an additional $1,000. A recent OAC meeting determined that "there wasn't any more money available," Mr. Fraser said.

He disagreed with Ms. Farrar's belief that $6,000 was necessary to stay open. "We are (staying open). It's not that we could; we are" getting by on the grant plus ther funding.

Other art gallery funding is coming from $10 membership. Members will receive advance notice of upcoming exhibits, in the form of an invitation to the opening party, at which they will receive complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres. The members will also get the opportunity to talk to the artist.

Funding also comes from commissions on sale of paintings, but Mrs. Hill said, "We are not in a good position for selling art because people on the street can't see us, and we can't afford to advertise."

"We have applied for a municipal grant and we haven't received any (word back from them) yet," Mr. Fraser said.

Ms. Farrar said "We really believe in the arts and it should be broug

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Entertainment

Lynette Fast shows one of her paintings, on display at Hennepin Art Gallery, to Carol Farrar, a curator of the gallery, and another onlooker. The painting is part of Mrs. Fast's exhibit, Energies in Mixed Media.

Photo by Allan Benner

Flowers, trees, leaves galore abstract art inspired by nature

BY ALLAN BENNER
Staff Writer

Abstract works of art line the walls of Hennipin Hall Gallery; Energies in Mixed Media, the paintings of Lynette Fast, are inspired "always from nature."

The leaves of trees and the petals of flowers have been captured in Mrs. Fast's memory and transferred to canvas to last forever.

"I paint from my imagination, from memories," Mrs. Fast as she stood in front of one of her favorite paintings, Cascade.

Energies in Mixed Media is just what its name implies. It is energetic looking work made with a number of types of paint.

"I have used some pigmented inks, acrylic (paint) and water color, and I could use all of these materials in the same painting. All of these paints are (made using) light fast (paint) so these paintings should sparkle 20 years from now," Mrs. Fast said. "They should not fade."

Mrs. Fast is a Brock University professor, "I'm in the Art Education department with the faculty of education."

The paintings on display are priced from $375 to $600. The most Mrs. Fast has charged for a painting is $650 which is relatively inexpensive.

"I have been associated with professional galleries since 1978 but I have been painting my whole life." Her experience is obvious in her exquisite works of art.

Hennepin Gallery will remain a jungle of painted vegetation for two months.

Policy now official ,

English skills to be improved

A policy to improve students' English skills is now official at Niagara College.

After a year's deliberation, Language Across the Curriculum was approved by the Academic Officers' Committee this month.

The policy calls for instructors in subjects other than English to stress the importance of language to their students. Rather than multiple choice or true/false tests, instructors are asked to use essay-type questions, Dennis Malone, chairman of communications, social sciences and general studies, said.

"We plan to involve a small number of really committed faculty representatives and cross sections of the programs who will be willing to work on it."

Since all areas relate to using language, the policy may insist on students keeping a daily journal specifying what they have done and learned in class. It seeks to have instructors create as much written and oral verbal interaction as possible.

In May and June of 1990, there will be professional development activity sessions for teachers to implement the techniques to their students. From there they can build on it.

"Although we're implementing on a selected basis, it's not a trial,"Mr. Malone said. "We're committed to it, but because we don't want to force it on other courses, we'll choose dedicated programs which will work with it."

"Many programs are active already, but for most it will be a gradual acceptance," he said. "It will take probably a couple of years to get all courses involved."

OOPS

In the Nov. 24 issue of the Niagara News, "Hennepin gallery in danger of closing," Peggy Hill, a curator of the Hennepin Gallery, was quoted as saying, "We'll stay open as long as we can; we'll try to stay open until May but it doesn't seem to matter." Due to a typesetting error this was incorrect. The actual quote was, "We'll stay open as long as we can; we'll try to stay open until May but it doesn't seem likely." We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this error.

30 E. Main, Welland
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Romantic comedy at Brock

For students looking for something a little different in holiday entertainment, Papers, a play being presented by Press Theatre Dec. 14 to 23 at Brock University, may be just the ticket.

Press Theatre Communications Directors Ernie Horvath describes Papers as fast paced romantic comedy set in fictional Canadian universtiy surroundings. The play, by Canadian playwright Allan Stratton, even features a student as the hero of the day.

The story revolves around an English professor and a writer-in-residence who are so busy hiding behind facades that they miss the fact they are in love. A naive student intervenes to make the professor and the writer realize their true feelings for each other.

Papers will be presented Dec. 14-17, and Dec. 19-23 at the Playhouse, Brock Centre for the Arts. Evening performances will begin at 8 p.m., and Sunday performances at 3 p.m.

Tickects are available through the Brock Centre for the Arts Box Office and are $11 for students and seniors, and $15 for adults. The box office phone is 688-5550, extension 3257.

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Sports

Cindy Evans of the Niagara College mixed curling team delivers a rock at the annual Niagara College Bonspiel. The mixed team finished second overall behind a rink from Mohawk College. Steve Strong is standing by waiting to sweep.

Photo by John Blackwell

Mohawk victorious at Niagara's bonspiel

Four rinks from Mohawk College were guests of the Niagara College curling club at its annual bonspiel Nov. 25 at the Welland Curling Club.

The varsity women's team from Mohawk, skipped by Karen Shepley, captured top honors after completing three games undefeated. Steve Strong's mixed team from Niagara grabbed second spot, edging the top placed men's team for the day, the Todd Brandwood rink from Mohawk. The Brandwood team is the defending OCAA men's champions.

Playing for the Shepley rink were Kathy Kuhl, vice; Cheryl Hevenor, second and Sheila Bradfield, lead. The top Niagara team consisted of Strong, Tracey Rienzo, John Blackwell and Cindy Evans.

Women's volleyball off to shaky start

The Niagara women's volleyball team went winless at their first tournament of the year at George Brown in Toronto

The 10-player team coached by Judy Halaiko started last weekend's tournament better than they finished. The first three-game set was lost to Sir Sandford Fleming with 16-14 and 15-7 games. The slump continued throughout the tournament with Niagara losing to Seneca, George Brown, Canadore and Cambrian.

The women's Knights did extremely well, "considering this is our first game situation and this is the third or fourth tournament for most of the other teams," Judy said.

The Knight's volleyball team ended second last year and never dropped below second place all season.

Judy is looking beyond this tournament to a brighter future for this year's womens volleyball team. "It will start clicking. We have another month and a half."

The women's volleyball team has had a poor turnout with only six players showing up for practice. "We only put out team together on Thursday," Judy said. Team members include second-year player and captain Leah Kulas and new members Ann Marie Firth, Kimm LaDoucer, Sue Cowan, Karri Goering, Paula Delano, Cheryl Mc Vicar, Sheila Mc Brayne, Linda Grondin and Tammy Heafey.

The team has three more league tournaments and one exhibition this season and have all January to practice. Then next tournament is scheduled for Feb. 2 and 3 at Royal Military College, Kingston.

Men's volleyball upset in Ottawa

By RICHMOND MAHEHE
Staff Writer

Despite great efforts, Niagara College's volleyball men's team lost three and won two of the five matches played Saturday in Ottawa.

The knights lost their first match 15-10, 15-10 to St. Lawrence, Kingston. The match could have gone either way. Ray Sarkis, the Knights coach, said they could have won the match if they had been more consistent.

Saturday morning, the Knights played Sir Sandford Fleming from Peterborough and defeated them 15-12, 16-14 in two games. Though it was a close match, the Knights were offensively stronger at the net than their opponents.

In the third match, they suffered another defeat in a match they could have won. They led Algonquin College, their host team, by 12-6 in the first game but lost the second 15-13.

Algonquin came back strong to win the third game 15-8. Ray said it was a tough game and they didn't rest between the matches which meant the team was tired.

ONLY SIX

The Knights played George Brown College, Toronto, and St. Lawrence College from Cornwall with only six players.

The Knights won the first game with George Brown 15-4, but lost the last two 15-8, 15-7, respectively.

In the final match, the Knights came on strong to defeat St. Lawrence 17-15, 15-5 and 15-9 in three games.

Marc Siqouin and Brian McDonald were steady and consistent throughout the tournament. "The two players carried the team offensively," Ray said.

The Knights are looking for players with high school experience for the coming year. Anyone qualified should contact Ray Sarkis 735-2211, extension 419.

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Sports

Things get chippy in recent ICHL action at the Welland Arena last Saturday night. Niagara "does battle" here with the Buff State Bengals. The Knights downed the Bengals 10-5. That win, and their victory over Conestoga the previous week, boosted the Knights into a tie for first place in the ICHL.

Photo by John Blackwell

Knights defeat Conestoga

By JOHN BLACKWELL
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights stretched their undefeated streak to four games and have ended up in a first-place tie after recent ICHL play. The Knights tangled with their archrivals, the previously undefeated Conestoga Condors Nov. 25 at Welland Arena. The Condors were sent to their first defeat of the season as the Knights prevailed by a 4-2 count. That important win was followed up with at 10-5 decision over Buff State last Saturday.

The Knights' upset of the Condors was by far the highlight of the season to date. Niagara jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first period on two goals by Dan Ruetz 49 seconds apart, the first of which came with the Knights shorthanded. Conestoga answered back with two goals in the second period with the goals again coming in bursts with only 50 seconds separating them.

The Knights did well not to quit and managed to move ahead early in the third period. Kent Loach opened the period with a goal at the 1:58 mark which was also quickly doubled up by Jamie MacAskill 12 seconds later to provide the margin of victory.

This may have been a turning point in the season as the Condors were unable to recover and the previously unbeaten team has been slumping ever since.

NET PLAY

The MacAskill goal was allowed after being scored into the net vacated by Conestoga goalie Marc McCallum but not before the Condors' Dave Kinsella had dislodged the net from its moorings. Referee Bob Kennedy delayed making his decision clear and five players were sent for early showers after enthusiastically trying to sort out the mess on their own.

Brian Rome and MacAskill of Niagara each received fighting penalties and misconducts which are accompanied by one-game mandatory vacations courtesy of the ICHL and made them unavailable for the next game at home against Buff State.

The Knights were fortunate last Saturday against the Bengals that Buff State finally decided to play about 20 minutes too late for their own good. The Bengal defence apparently missed their wake-up call as the Knights romped to a 6-0 lead after one period. Six different goal scorers had their name on the scoresheet after the target practice on the Bengal net was ended by a siren.

REAWAKENING

Reveille must have sounded in the Buff State change room between periods because the Bengals were awake and ready for action in the second frame, albeit a little late to salvage the two points up for grabs. Buff State traded goals with the Knights in the middle period with the Bengals grabbing the first two to add a pinch of suspense to the proceedings before Niagara notched theirs to go up 8-2 and all but cement the outcome.

Tim Berezowski took over for Jim Darling in the Knight set for the final period and both teams played with apathy bordering on contempt. The Bengals outscored the home team 3-1 in the final period in a textbook example of too little too late (hockey style).

Lance Parcher and Jim Denardi each had two goals for the Knights. Dan Ruetz earned a game's rest by way of a game misconduct assessed by Kalvin Forest with just over a minute left in the game.

Niagara now stands in a first-place tie with Penn State and Erie Community College.

The Knight s have an exhibition game Saturday against an alumni team before meeting ECC at home next Saturday, Dec. 16, for their final fame of the 80s. Both games begin at 8 pm and admission is free.

ICHL STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pts
Erie C.C.	5	1	0	10
Penn St.	5	1	0	10
Niagara	**5**	**2**	**0**	**10**
Conestoga	5	3	0	10
Buff St.	2	4	0	4
U. of B.	1	6	0	2
U. Roch.	1	7	0	2

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Troubled students get help

In addition to Niagara College's regular English 100, there will be a supplementary English class and two language labs to assist troubled students this fall.

Students with severe reading and writing problems which will require far more time and attention with their regular English should be recommended to Marti Jurmain, co-ordinator of English operations.

Mrs. Jurmain will then refer it to Ed Wilson, English instructor for the special class. "These students will be transferred to me from their other English class," Mr. Wilson said.

This section, an expanded version of ENG-100, will consist of five hours a week. Before being accepted, students and the instructor must negogiate and sign contracts specifying individual requirements.

AN EXAMPLE

To provide the instructor with a guide line, students must be aware of their needs. "For instance, a computer terminal with spell check, which is not accessible in regular English classes, may be needed," Mrs. Jurmain said. This will allow the teacher to negotiate: "Yes, but there must be someone there to supervise you"

English instructors with students whose language problems require individualized help may send them to the writing labs, commonly known last year as writing clinics, for one-on-one tutorials, Mr. Wilson said.

At the beginning of the term, those with low scores on their Nelson Denny test which evaluates English skills, will be *have reading difficulties will* report to the reading lab in addition to their regular English class.

As students complete their Grade 11 level of reading, they will be dismissed and others will be admitted.

Both reading and writing labs will operate during double lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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House on the hill

This decrepit old shack is a lonely silhouette as the sun sets behind a hilltop in Kent County. This wooden skeleton was built in 1905 and is one of the few surviving buildings from that time. Located one kilometre west of the small southwestern town of Ridgetown, it is left to stand guard over the pasture that was once a well groomed lawn. Today it is only a curiosity for grazing sheep and a subject for many photographers and artists.

Photo by Sheila McBrayne

OSAP cheque not in mail

Much-requested information about extra Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) funds for the longer academic year has not yet been received by Niagara College's Financial Aid Office.

Elaine Spark, financial aid officer, said she has been in touch with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities a number of times regarding extra OSAP funds. The ministry told her last week that the college would have some information by mid-December.

Mrs. Spark said many students have been inquiring about extra OSAP funds.

"It would have been nice to have clear instructions from the ministry when people were making decisions after the strike."

No student nominees for Board seat

Only two years after students were first allowed on the Board of Governors, there will be no student representative in 1990.

"I am very disappointed," Jacqueline Robarts, college president, said. "Students have fought for representation on the board for at least 10 years."

Nominations to elect a student and a faculty board member produced just one candidate — the present faculty representative, David Abraham.

When nominations for a student member of the Board closed at 4 p.m. on Dec. 4, no candidates for the position of student representative had been nominated. Mr. Abraham was declared elected by acclamation as faculty representative for another three-year term, and the student position will remain vacant for 1990.

Students have been represented on the Board of Governors for the past two years. Randy Conlon, last year's president of the Student Administrative Council, is the the student board member during 1989. He was the only student nominated for the position at that time.

Miss Robarts said the position could be used by students to change things, and it gives the board a student's perspective on things.

"It brings the board down to the reality that we're here for the students."

Since the board's nomination process produced no student candidates and only one faculty member, the elections slated for Dec. 19-21 will be cancelled.

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